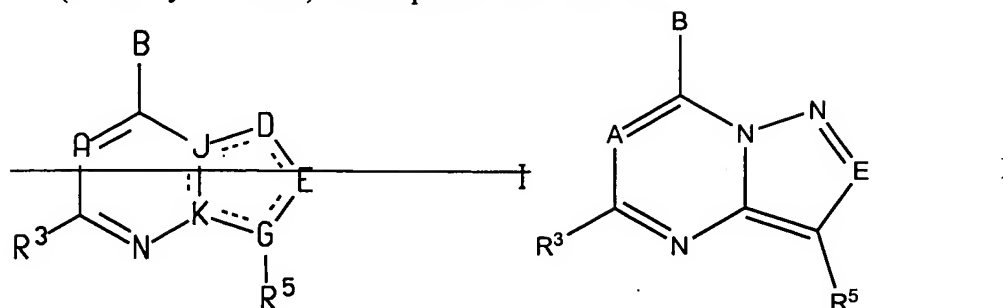


# IN THE CLAIMS

9. (Currently Amended) A compound of the formula



or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein

the dashed lines represent optional double bonds;

A is nitrogen or CH, or CCH<sub>3</sub>

B is ~~[[ $\text{NR}^1\text{R}^2$ ]]~~  $\text{CR}^1\text{R}^2\text{R}^{10}$   $\text{C}(=\text{CR}^2\text{R}^{11})\text{R}^1$ ,  $\text{NHCR}^1\text{R}^2\text{R}^{10}$ ,  $\text{OCR}^1\text{R}^2\text{R}^{10}$ ,  $\text{SCR}^1\text{R}^2\text{R}^{10}$ ,  $\text{CR}^2\text{R}^{10}\text{NHR}^1$ ,  $\text{CR}^2\text{R}^{10}\text{OR}^1$ ,  $\text{CR}^2\text{R}^{10}\text{SR}^1$  or  $\text{COR}^2$ ;

~~J and K are each independently is nitrogen; or carbon and both J and K are not nitrogens;~~

~~D and E are each selected, independently, from nitrogen;  $\text{CR}^4$ , C=O, C=S, sulfur, oxygen,  $\text{CR}^4\text{R}^6$  and  $\text{NR}^8$ ;~~

E is selected from  $\text{CR}^4$ , C=O, C=S, sulfur, oxygen,  $\text{CR}^4\text{R}^6$  and  $\text{NR}^8$ ;

G is ~~[[nitrogen or]]~~ carbon;

~~the ring containing D, E, G, K, and J in formula I may be a saturated or unsaturated 5 membered ring and may optionally contain one or two double bonds and may optionally contain from one to three heteroatoms in the ring and may optionally have one or two C=O or C=S groups;~~

R<sup>1</sup> is C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkyl optionally substituted with one or two substituents independently selected from hydroxy, fluoro, chloro, bromo, iodo, -O-(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl), CF<sub>3</sub>, -C(=O)O-(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>alkyl), -OC(=O)(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl), -OC(=O)N(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl)(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>2</sub> alkyl), -NHCO(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl), -COOH, -COO(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl), -CONH(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl), -CON(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl)(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>2</sub> alkyl), -S(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl), -CN, -NO<sub>2</sub>, -SO(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl), -SO<sub>2</sub>(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl), -SO<sub>2</sub>NH(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl) and -SO<sub>2</sub>N(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl)(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>2</sub> alkyl), wherein each of the C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl groups in the foregoing R<sup>1</sup> groups may optionally contain one or two double or triple bonds;

$R^2$  is  $C_1$ - $C_{12}$  alkyl which may optionally contain from one to three double or triple bonds, aryl or ( $C_1$ - $C_4$  alkylene)aryl, wherein said aryl and the aryl moiety of said ( $C_1$ - $C_4$  alkylene)aryl is selected from phenyl, naphthyl, thienyl, benzothienyl, pyridyl, quinolyl, pyrazinyl, pyrimidinyl, imidazolyl, furanyl, benzofuranyl, benzothiazolyl, isothiazolyl, pyrazolyl, pyrrolyl, indolyl, pyrrolopyridyl, oxazolyl and benzoxazolyl;  $C_3$ - $C_8$  cycloalkyl or ( $C_1$ - $C_6$  alkylene)( $C_3$ - $C_8$  cycloalkyl), wherein one or two of the carbon atoms of said cycloalkyl and the 5 to 8 membered cycloalkyl moieties of said ( $C_1$ - $C_6$  alkylene)( $C_3$ - $C_8$  cycloalkyl) may optionally and independently be replaced by an oxygen or sulfur atom or by  $NZ^2$  wherein  $Z^2$  is selected from hydrogen,  $C_1$ - $C_4$  alkyl, benzyl and  $C_1$ - $C_4$  alkanoyl, and wherein each of the foregoing  $R^2$  groups may optionally be substituted with from one to three substituents independently selected from chloro, fluoro, hydroxy and  $C_1$ - $C_4$  alkyl, or with one substituent selected from bromo, iodo,  $C_1$ - $C_6$  alkoxy,  $-OC(=O)(C_1$ - $C_6$  alkyl),  $-OC(=O)N(C_1$ - $C_4$  alkyl)( $C_1$ - $C_2$  alkyl),  $-S(C_1$ - $C_6$  alkyl), amino,  $-NH(C_1$ - $C_2$  alkyl),  $-N(C_1$ - $C_2$  alkyl)( $C_1$ - $C_4$  alkyl),  $-N(C_1$ - $C_4$  alkyl)- $CO$ -( $C_1$ - $C_4$  alkyl),  $-NHCO(C_1$ - $C_4$  alkyl),  $-COOH$ ,  $-COO(C_1$ - $C_4$  alkyl),  $-CONH(C_1$ - $C_4$  alkyl),  $-CON(C_1$ - $C_4$  alkyl)( $C_1$ - $C_2$  alkyl),  $-SH$ ,  $-CN$ ,  $-NO_2$ ,  $-SO(C_1$ - $C_4$  alkyl),  $-SO_2(C_1$ - $C_4$  alkyl),  $-SO_2NH(C_1$ - $C_4$  alkyl) and  $-SO_2N(C_1$ - $C_4$  alkyl)( $C_1$ - $C_2$  alkyl);

$-NR^1R^2$  or  $CR^1R^2R^{10}$  may form a saturated 3 to 8 membered carbocyclic ring which may optionally contain from one to three double bonds and wherein one or two of the ring carbon atoms of such 5 to 8 membered rings may optionally and independently be replaced by an oxygen or sulfur atom or by  $NZ^3$  wherein  $Z^3$  is hydrogen,  $C_1$ - $C_4$  alkyl, benzyl or  $C_1$ - $C_4$  alkanoyl;

$R^3$  is hydrogen,  $C_1$ - $C_4$  alkyl,  $-O(C_1$ - $C_4$  alkyl), chloro, fluoro, bromo, iodo, ( $C_1$ - $C_2$  alkylene)- $O$ -( $C_1$ - $C_2$  alkyl), ( $C_1$ - $C_2$  alkylene)- $OH$ , or  $-S(C_1$ - $C_4$  alkyl);

each  $R^4$  is, independently, hydrogen, ( $C_1$ - $C_6$  alkyl), fluoro, chloro, bromo, iodo, hydroxy, cyano, amino, ( $C_1$ - $C_2$  alkylene)- $OH$ ,  $CF_3$ ,  $CH_2SCH_3$ , nitro,  $-O(C_1$ - $C_4$  alkyl),  $-N(C_1$ - $C_4$  alkyl)( $C_1$ - $C_2$  alkyl),  $-S(C_1$ - $C_4$  alkyl),  $-CO(C_1$ - $C_4$  alkyl),  $-C(=O)H$  or  $-C(=O)O(C_1$ - $C_4$ alkyl);

$R^6$  is hydrogen, methyl or ethyl;

$R^8$  is hydrogen or  $C_1$ - $C_4$  alkyl;

$R^5$  is phenyl, pyridyl, pyrazinyl, pyrimidyl, pyridazinyl and wherein each of the foregoing  $R^5$  groups is substituted with from one to four substituents  $R^{13}$  wherein one to three of said substituents may be selected, independently, from fluoro, chloro,  $C_1$ - $C_6$  alkyl

and -O(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkyl) and one of said substituents may be selected from bromo, iodo, formyl, OH, (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkylene)-OH, (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>alkylene)-O-(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>2</sub> alkyl), -CN, -CF<sub>3</sub>, -NO<sub>2</sub>, -NH<sub>2</sub>, -NH(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl), -N(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>2</sub> alkyl)(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkyl), -OCO(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl), (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkylene)-O-(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl), -S(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkyl), (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkylene)-S-(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl), -C(=O)O(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl), -C(=O)(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl), -COOH, -SO<sub>2</sub>NH(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl), -SO<sub>2</sub>N(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>2</sub> alkyl)(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl), -SO<sub>2</sub>NH<sub>2</sub>, -NHSO<sub>2</sub>(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl), -S(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkyl) and -SO<sub>2</sub>(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkyl), and wherein each of the C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl and C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkyl moieties in the foregoing R<sup>5</sup> groups may optionally have one or two double bonds;

R<sup>7</sup> is hydrogen, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl, ~~[[halo (e.g.,]]~~ chloro, fluoro, iodo, ~~[[or]]~~ bromo ~~[[)]]~~, hydroxy, -O(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl), -C(=O)(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl), -C(=O)O(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl), -OCF<sub>3</sub>, -CF<sub>3</sub>, -CH<sub>2</sub>OH or -CH<sub>2</sub>O(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>2</sub> alkyl);

R<sup>10</sup> is ~~[[hydrogen]]~~, hydroxy, methoxy or fluoro;

R<sup>11</sup> is hydrogen or C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl. ~~[[; and ]]~~

~~with the proviso that: (a) when both J and K are carbons and D is CR<sup>4</sup> and E is nitrogen, then G can not be nitrogen; (b) when both J and K are carbons and D and G are nitrogens, then E can not be CR<sup>4</sup> or C=O or C=S; (c) when both J and K are carbons and D and E are carbons, then G can not be nitrogen; (d) when G is carbon, it must be double banded to E; and (e) in the ring containing J, K, D, E and G, there can not be two double bonds adjacent to each other;~~

and the pharmaceutically acceptable salts of such compounds.

10. (Withdrawn) Compounds according to claim 9 wherein A is CH, J and K are carbon and D, E, and G are nitrogen.

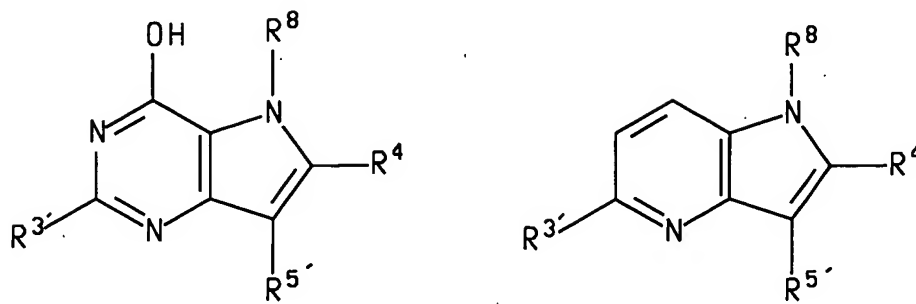
11. (Currently Amended) ~~[[Compounds]]~~ A compound according to claim 9 wherein ~~J and D are nitrogen, and K and G are carbon, and E is CH, CCH<sub>3</sub> or CC<sub>2</sub>H<sub>5</sub>.~~

18. (Withdrawn) A method of treating or preventing a disorder or condition, the treatment or prevention of which can be effected or facilitated by inhibiting CRH binding protein in a mammal, comprising administering to said mammal a CRH binding protein inhibiting amount of a compound according to claim 9.

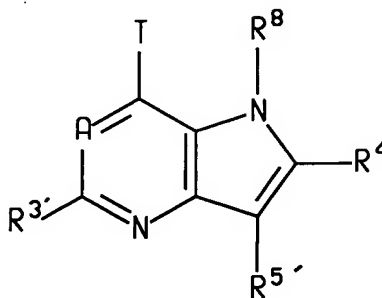
19. (Currently Amended) A pharmaceutical composition for treating or preventing a disorder or condition, the treatment or prevention of which can be effected or facilitated by inhibiting CRH binding protein in a mammal, comprising a CRH binding protein inhibiting amount of a compound according to claim ~~[[1]]~~ 9 and a pharmaceutically

acceptable carrier.

22. (Withdrawn) A compound of the formula



or



wherein  $R^3N$  is  $C_1$ - $C_4$  alkyl,  $R^7N$  is hydrogen, methyl, chloro, bromo,  $-COOH$  or  $-COO(C_1-C_4 \text{ alkyl})$ ,  $T$  is chloro, bromo, iodo or triflate,  $R^8$  is hydrogen or  $C_1$ - $C_4$  alkyl and  $R^4$  is hydrogen,  $(C_1-C_6 \text{ alkyl})$ , fluoro, chloro, bromo, iodo, hydroxy, cyano, amino,  $(C_1-C_2 \text{ alkylene})-OH$ ,  $CF_3$ ,  $CH_2SCH_3$ , nitro,  $-O(C_1-C_4 \text{ alkyl})$ ,  $-N(C_1-C_4 \text{ alkyl})(C_1-C_2 \text{ alkyl})$ ,  $-S(C_1-C_4 \text{ alkyl})$ ,  $-CO(C_1-C_4 \text{ alkyl})$ ,  $-C(=O)H$  or  $-C(=O)O(C_1-C_4 \text{ alkyl})$ ;

23. (Currently Amended) A compound according to claim [[1]] 2 wherein said compound is:

~~7 (1 ethyl propoxy) 5 methyl 3 (2,4,6 trimethyl phenyl) pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyrimidine;~~

~~{2,5 Dimethyl 3 (2,4,6 trimethyl phenyl) pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyrimidin 7-yl} (1 ethyl propyl) amine;~~

~~— (1 Ethyl propyl) [5 methyl 3 (2,4,6 trimethyl phenyl) pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyrimidin 7-yl] amine;~~

~~7-(1-Ethyl-propoxy)-2,5-dimethyl-3-(2,4,6-trimethyl-phenyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyrimidine;~~

~~[2,5-Dimethyl-3-(2,4,6-trimethyl-phenyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyrimidin-7-yl]-ethyl-propyl-amine;~~

[6-Bromo-5-bromomethyl-3-(2,4,6-trimethyl-phenyl)-3H-[1,2,3]triazolo[4,5-b]pyridin-7-yl]-(1-ethyl-propyl)-amine;

(1-Ethyl-propyl)-[5-methyl-3-(2,4,6-trimethyl-phenyl)-3H-[1,2,3]triazolo[4,5-b]pyridin-7-yl]-amine;

[6-Bromo-5-methyl-3-(2,4,6-trimethyl-phenyl)-3H-[1,2,3]triazolo[4,5-b]pyridin-7-yl]-(1-ethyl-propyl)-methyl-amine;

7-(1-Ethyl-propoxy)-5-methyl-3-(2,4,6-trimethyl-phenyl)-3H-[1,2,3]triazolo[4,5-b]pyridine;

4-(1-Ethyl-propoxy)-2,5-dimethyl-7-(2,4,6-trimethyl-phenyl)-5H-pyrrolo[3,2-d]pyrimidine;

(+)-2,5-Dimethyl-4-(tetrahydro-furan-3-yloxy)-7-(2,4,6-trimethyl-phenyl)-5H-pyrrolo-[3,2-d]pyrimidine;

2,5-Dimethyl-4-(S)-(tetrahydro-furan-3-yloxy)-7-(2,4,6-trimethyl-phenyl)-5H-pyrrolo-[3,2-d]pyrimidine;

2,5-Dimethyl-4-(1-propyl-butoxy)-7-(2,4,6-trimethyl-phenyl)-5H-pyrrolo[3,2-d]pyrimidine; or

4-sec-Butylsulfanyl-2,5-dimethyl-7-(2,4,6-trimethyl-phenyl)-5H-pyrrolo[3,2-d]pyrimidine;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt of such compound.